efforts are on in the Department to monitor implementation in collaboration with RBI. FIPB will be taking up monitoring of mega projects with a view to ascertain problems. State Government would also be involved since they have a vital role. As a part of further strengthening the monitoring of implementation of projects, procedural simplifications have been suggested at the State level.

[English]

Export of Gems and Jewellery

2124. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of Gems and Jewellery has been declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the export of Gems and Jewellery made during the last three years and the current year so far; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the export of Gems and Jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA). (a) and (b). Export of Gem and Jewellery during the last three years including for the period from April to October, 1996 has been as follows :

(Value in US $ Million)

Item	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-97 (Apr. Oct.) (Provl.)
Diamonds	3574.50	3937.00	4577.54	2546.27
Gold Jewellery	308.60	421.20	480.40	381.15
Other	111.60	142.20	222.50	95.83
Total	3994.70	4500.40	5257.44	3023.25

(c) Expert of gems and jewellery is one of the major thrust areas of our exports. Government has recently taken a number of steps to boost exports in this sector which include fine tuning of Export and Import policy as announced in March, 1996, ensuring easy availability of raw materials at internationally competitive prices; encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibition; making India an international trading centre for diamonds and providing necessary assistance to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council to develop trained man-power for the industry. Recently, the interest rates on post-shipment credits has been lowered to facilitate exports.

Tax Evasion by Owners of Ceilo Car

2125. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the massive evasion of tax has been detected is the sale of the upmarket car Cielo to Delhi buyers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). There is as yet no conclusive evidence of evasion of sales tax as the matter is under active investigation by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[Translation]

Foreign Currency

2126. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign currency seized by the customs department from the travellers at International Airports during the current year; and

(b) the names of countries to which these passengers belong, the extent of amount seized from each of the passenger at various International Airports separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Capital Stock Exchange

2127. SHRI A. SAMPATH :
SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places in the country where stock exchanges are functioning;

(b) the number of shares listed, exchange-wise;

(c) the volume of business done during 1995-96, stock exchange-wise;

(d) the estimated number of share-holders in the country;

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of the share-holders and to promote share-consciousness among the people;

(f) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the function of the stock exchange;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Although there are twenty two recognised Stock Exchanges functioning in the country,